

From the Desk of ...

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Foreign Language Ballots Divide Country; Use Opportunity to Demolish Obstacles for New Immigrants

We all learned early in school that Members of Congress debate and amend policy to address the concerns of the people.

Last week, the U.S. House of Representatives was set to renew the temporary parts of the Voting Rights Act.

Unfortunately, the vote to renew the VRA this year was supposed to be under a rule that allowed no Member to offer an amendment.

This federal mandate forces localities to provide foreign language voting materials and ballots in any area with a significant foreign-born population.

Extending the foreign language voting mandate for twenty-five more years means a single-committed Member of Congress.

Seventy-eight other Members of Congress joined me and demanded that we be able to offer amendments to the bill.

If we want to demolish modern-day obstacles and bring all backgrounds into our voting process to communicate with all Americans, we must act now.

We are a nation that assimilates new immigrants from all parts of the world. The American dream means that everyone has a chance to succeed.

Foreign language ballots increase the risk of election errors and fraud and undermine the integrity of our

Foreign language ballots cost taxpayers millions of dollars, and in many cases, localities are required to

Finally, voters who need language assistance are already permitted, under current law, to bring an interpreter

America seems poised to legalize tens of millions of immigrants. If their first act of political participation was